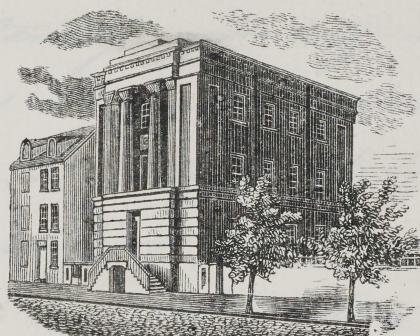


AN ESSAY ON  
Intermittent Fever.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMœOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

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There is perhaps no disease to which  
the human family is heir, so imper-  
fectly understood as intermittent  
fever, though more now common  
to some sections of our country  
and certainly not any upon which  
we find so great a diversity of  
opinions among pathological writers.  
It is a subject upon which there  
has been much said of late.

particularly by writers of the Homoeo-  
pathic School of Medicine. We are  
some what unlike our brothers of  
the old school. We are not satisfied  
with their old Encelapism theory,  
and particularly their success in the  
treatment of this disease. We  
seek for something more reliable.

and by unremitting study investigation,  
close observation of nature's laws, and  
discusion. we shall find that which  
we seek. Good results must follow  
from thorough investigations.

Theories and systems that are not  
well supported by truth, cannot stand  
the test. they must be forgotten though  
they be antiquated. must reverence  
them because of their age?

It is impossible to establish general  
rules for the treatment of inter-  
mittent fever. No disease of so  
frequent occurrence is encountered  
with so much difficulty, not that  
the law. Similia Similibus Curan-  
tia, by which we are governed  
in the treatment of disease, is

wanting in efficacy. in the treatment of this peculiar disease.

Not that the system lacks the means of certain cure provided they are properly chosen. but in selecting the specific antidotes. requires a degree of knowledge. and precise discrimination not always possessed by the physician. and which can only be acquired by studying thoroughly the Nat. Med.

But let us look for a moment at the peculiar characteristics of this disease. of which the most prominent one is expressed by its name. We have all the phenomena of fever

Making their appearance at certain periods. And then disappearing leaving an interval in which the constitution seems to be in the normal state. And continues so until the supervention of another attack. We shall define intermittent fever as a primitive or essential fever. composed of many paroxysms. which occur at certain periods. and in the intervals between which we have a state of pyrexia or freedom from fever. This definition may be to a certain degree imperfect for we meet with examples of this disease in which the periods of attack. are by no means regular.

or certain. and the state of the apyrexia between the paroxysms not well marked. Again we may have intermittent fever from lesions of various kinds.

For instance we may have a fever of an intermittent character, not essential, but depending upon a local lesion. as in that which attends bad cases of stricture and retention of urine. which has been termed primary fever.

We are as yet unable to account for the cause of this disease and its periodicity which is so remarkable a feature of it.

We might review the Miasmatic or Milieus theory. which may

pathological writers acknowledge. But  
we yet have not succeeded in  
making it so clear as to be under-  
stood. Therefore we will decline  
handling anything which we are  
unable to lift. Leaving this for  
others to discuss. We will study the  
effects of the disease, and direct our  
attention to things within our reach.  
Intermittent fever has usually been  
divided into three stages - the cold  
the hot, and the sweating stage.  
Or we may simplify by making two stages,  
the sweating being the result of the hot  
stage. During the cold stage there is  
usually perceptible lesions of some  
one or more of the internal organs.  
and congestion of many if not all of

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the viscera of the three great carious  
In short the balance of circulation is  
lost the blood forsakes the surface  
and accumulates in the internal  
organs. This condition is confirmed  
by an examination of the symptoms  
as well as of the appearances upon  
post mortem. If we take up the  
different parts of the system and  
examine during the cold stage we  
may be able to see how far the sym-  
ptoms point to an accumulation of  
blood. Commencing with the  
nervous system. the patient com-  
plains of more or less headache attended  
with stupor. coma. and even convul-  
sions. indicating a congested cond-  
ition of the brain. and confirmed by

dissection. Now let us look at the pulmonary system during this stage— And we will find hurried breathing, cough, anxiety, ~~and~~ distress on pressure, evidences of engorgement, and confirmed by dissection. The action of the heart is also oppressed, pulse small and irregular. In the abdominal cavity there is also symptoms indicating the same condition.

Vomiting, diarrhoea &c.

The spleen also becomes very much trunified and enlarged. Baillie gives accounts of cases of rupture of the spleen from excessive congestion during the cold stage of ague. Some writers have contended that the congested and enlarged

spleen was the whole pathology of inter-  
mittent fever. We cannot conceive  
of there being any closer connection  
between the enlarged spleen and  
intermittent fever, than there is  
between any other organ. Then cert-  
ainly cannot be any separate rela-  
tion between the enlargement of  
this organ and the ~~pathology~~ produc-  
tion of intermittent fever.

Still difficulties are sometimes,  
and too often surmounted in this  
way. Attributing difficult or unknown  
causes to an abnormal condition.

of an organ whose natural functions  
are as yet unknown. Perhaps attention  
has been more frequently directed to  
this organ, from the fact that its

lentions are more manifest than those of other viscera. It receives when in its normal condition a great quantity of blood. It being composed of a loose spongey tissue it becomes rapidly enlarged and congested and consequently a very prominent sign of the disease. In the hot stage of the disease all the phenomena that we have just examined are reversed. Everything indicates that the energy of the circulation is about being restored. And then is a powerful determination of blood to the surface. The pulse rises in strength and the coldness gradually disappears. The skin which was

cold and shrivelled, becomes hot and tense; face flushed; the cough and hurried respiration are relieved; and the third stage or sneezing stage follows, usually, but not invariably by any means. The prognosis of this disease is under Homoeopathic treatment favorable. Still there is perhaps not a single disease either acute or chronic, which may not be the result of intermittent fever. Sometimes we have the phenomena of intermittent fever cease, and a continuance of a chronic disease, produced by the violence of the original malady. Indeed nothing is more common where intermittents are treated with Quinine.

To often do we meet with chronic diseases of the brain, heart, and lungs, which we can trace back as the results of intermittent fever combined with heroic treatment. We think that we are safe in saying that nine tenths of the chronic non-invasive diseases (existing in our western country, particularly) result from long continuance and injurious treatment of this dreaded malady. He who has dysentery, diarrhoea, hepatitis, peritonitis, gastritis, and appendicitis in all its horrid forms. All these local affections are the results of violent congestion, and continued irritation which attends

the early paroxysms of this disease.  
This then is what we must dread and  
guard against in the treatment of  
intermittent fever.

We will now proceed to subjoin  
the internal treatment. As we  
have remarked, no disease requires  
a more careful study, in order to  
treat each individual case  
successfully. Then this disease  
under consideration. There are  
many elements in the different  
stages of the paroxysm, and in the  
apoplectic, that each case constitutes  
a great deal of study of itself,  
the symptoms which are of the  
most importance to be consid-  
ered, are generally those which

occur during the paroxysm: the character of the chill, heat, thirst & sweat, &c. But in some cases the symptoms of the apoplexia are more important than those of the paroxysm. Then of course the remedy should be chosen in reference to these.

The remedies which are most frequently brought into use, in the treatment of this disease, are the As. Bell. Bzg. China, Sulphate of Lime, Camph. Spicae. Not Marat, Mar, Bom, Pilia & Rhus tox, &c. We shall be unable to give the full indications of all the above, enumerated remedies. But will be content to give the more prominent indications of a part of them.

In regard to attenuations, there is  
a great diversity of opinions.

But as a general rule we shall  
prefer the low! from the first  
to third, in form of titration  
to be given in the appexia  
once in three or four hours.

Taking into consideration in  
the mean time, the peculiar  
idiosyncrasies and susceptibility  
of the patient. Arsenicum.

Corresponds to a large number  
of symptoms. The chills & fever are  
not well marked, occurring sim-  
ultaneously, or alternately, preced-  
ing the chilly stage. There is  
streaking, drawing, of the limbs,  
gawing, great debility.

Between the chil. and heat. perhys.  
desire to drink often but little at a  
time. anxiety. nausea, and vomiting  
of bile. the heat is burning and  
pungent to the touch. sweat after  
the heat. sudden prostrations of strength.  
profuse sweat in spycoria from debili-  
ty. this remedy is increasingly  
indicated if the patient is suffering  
from the abuse of Quinine,  
China, is another very valuable  
remedy but a much slower one.  
In intermissions of an endemic  
character. occurring in marshy regions  
attended with languor. congections of  
blood to the head. pain in the liver  
and spleen yellow color of the skin  
spasmodic cough great debility.

Before the paroxysm great thirst. and  
canine hunger. During the chilly  
stage. headache. absence of thirst.  
vertigo. paleness of the face. great  
coldness of the hands and feet.  
vomiting mucus. Between the  
chilly and hot stage. thirst. During  
the hot stage dryness of the mouth  
and lips. redness of the face.  
hunger. delirium. desire for  
cold drinks. shuddering when  
uncovered. Galloping of Inines  
Shaking chill followed by heat  
then sweat several hours. Fluency  
of the lips and nails. contracted  
pulse. then heat and redness of  
the face. full pulse and thirst.  
During the chilly stage paleness of

the face. headache, tingling in  
the ears. thirst. increased appetite  
difficult stool and despondency.

*Eupatorium* is a remedy that is used  
a great deal in the western inter-  
mittents. Occurring generally in  
the morning. Thirst some hours  
before the chill. continues  
during the chill and heat. pause  
from the least motion. soreness of  
the legs and arms. vomiting at  
the termination of the chill.

The patient feels worse in the mor-  
ning of one day. and the afternoon  
of the next. a greater amount of  
shivering during the chill. than  
is warranted by the degree of cold.  
esp. vomiting of bile. pain in

the pit of the stomach, bear  
neckness during the fever, fainting  
esp from motion.

Ipecac is a reliable remedy in  
this disease and is thought by  
many that <sup>when</sup> it is not entirely  
Homeopathic to the condition, it  
effects a favorable change, by way  
of bringing out or developing the  
symptoms. when the case is an  
obscure one, as it not unfrequent-  
ly is. And we are unable to de-  
termine upon what will espe-  
cially meet the condition.

The chilly stage is short without thirst  
the heat great without thirst.  
The paroxysm is attended with head-  
ache, gastric symptoms. bitter

Lack of food. loss of appetite.  
and debility. The indications for  
this remedy are increased. if the  
paroxysms. have <sup>been</sup> prodded by the  
action of Quinine.

Natrum Muriaticum. Before and  
after the heat violent thirst  
which cannot be satisfied. of driv-  
ing. tearing in the bones. blue  
nails. and chattering of the teeth.  
heat and chill of nearly equal  
duration. pain in back during  
the fever. an eruption on the lips.  
weakness of eyes and faintness.  
chillness with great thirst. after-  
wards great heat with violent thirst.  
and excessive headache. and at  
last profuse sweat.

Nerv. Bonica - is an important remedy in connection with state of the patient during the apoplexia, as well as during the paroxysm. It is indicated by a state of constipation, gaseous or bilious symptoms in consequence of errors in diet, or in a nervous condition from irritation of spinal marrow, occurring usually in the afternoon or night, consisting mostly of chills and partial heat with or without subsequent sweat, or mostly of heat and preceded, followed or mingled with chills, with constant desire for beer or acid. During the paroxysm pains and languor of the limbs, vertigo, oppressive headache, spasmodic pain

and pressure of the stomach, nausea  
fitter eructations. bitter and sour taste  
white or yellow coating on the tongue.  
vomiting of ingesta. loss of appetite  
constipation. debility. and prostration.  
During the heat vertigo. headache.  
chilliness upon movement of the  
cover, nausea. vomiting buzzing  
in the ears. pains in the chest and  
rest wine. after the abun of  
Innuies with swelling of the  
liver. icy coldness of hands and  
feet. blueness of hands and nails.  
spotted appearance of the skin.  
tearing pain in the legs lastly  
sweat. During the appressio dulness  
of the head non paleness of the face  
clear or coated tongue. loss of

taste and appetite, patient last, strikes in the regions of the liver, and right side of the chest, great painfulness in the pit of the stomach, swelling of the spleen, and it does not admit of profuse constipation and dry night cough invasions and anguish.

Pulseable. The paroxysm for this remedy generally consist of chills, followed by heat, which is accompanied or succeeded by sweat, occurring generally in the afternoon or evening. During the chill: paleness of the face, vertigo, anxiety and oppression of the chest, or vomiting of mucus; freedom from thirst. During the heat:

there is headache with red bloated face; rest in the face lamenting and moaning, restless sleep, hurried and anxious breathing, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Intermittents after the stay of China, with prevalence of gastric and bilious symptoms. With the above treatment & removal of the cause is desirable if possible which may be done often by the patient changing the location if but a few mls. distant. It usually has a salutary effect.